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growth and health; and when it is considered how far the persons with 'an ear for music' outnumber the persons with 'a soul for music,' we cannot wonder that musical platitudes are still perpetrated."

The justice of the remarks contained in this extract we think it difficult to impugn. When did the disciples of the severe or mathematical school of musicians, awaken the sympathy or appeal to the feelings of an audience? Yet it is quite possible—indeed, a very common occurrence—that scholarlike knowledge is joined to a 'soul for music,' and from this class of musicians alone can we entertain hopes of the elevation of the science.

The refining effects of the study of music on the public mind, are too frequently seen in social life not to be readily admitted; to enlarge or offer arguments in proof of such a proposition would be superfluous, the fact is generally admitted—admitted, indeed, in a practical form, by the establishment of so many amateur societies, at the head of which stand the colossal associations which periodically meet at Exeter Hall.

There is yet another benefit derived from a better acquaintance with music, and that is exhibited by a reference to the improved mode of rendering the church musical service. It has been the aim of the proprietors of the *Musical Times* to increase the means of attaining a clearer insight into this sublime department of the musical art; and it is not too much to say, from the means we have had of judging, that in the last few years a very great and highly-beneficial change has been wrought in this respect. This is indeed a great fact, and, more than any other, a matter for sincere congratulation to all who know the slovenly manner in which such services were wont to be performed.

It has been truly said, that "Music has no expression for vice; it has no relation to bad passions, but to the finest affections of our nature." It can incite no man to the commission of an evil action, but rather prepares the mind for the exercise of virtue, and soothes the troubled spirit. It may therefore be termed a popular science—the influence it has upon the mind of a people being that of unmitigated good.

VERNON.

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#### Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

**BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.**—This Festival, in aid of the funds of the General Hospital, will be held on 7th September, and three following days, under the especial patronage of the Queen, Prince Albert, and other members of the Royal Family. The following distinguished artistes will form the vocal array of talent to be heard on this occasion:—Madame Clara Novello, Madame Viardot Garcia, Miss Dolby, Madame Anna Zerr, Madame Castellan, Madlle. Bertrandi, and Miss M. Williams; Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Williams, Mr. Weiss, Signori Tamberlik, Polonini, and Belletti, and Herr Formes; Mr. Costa is the conductor; and the following performers are engaged as instrumental soloists:—MM. Sainton, Piatti, Bottesini, and Kuhe; Mr. Stimpson will preside at the organ. The morning performances will consist of five oratorios—*Elijah*, and *Christus* (a posthumous work) by Mendelssohn; the *Creation*, *Messiah*, and *Samson*; and a Motett by Dr. Wesley. The evening performances will be of a less varied, but more classical kind than usual. A ball on the 10th will wind up the performances.

**HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL.**—The 129th festival of the three choirs of Hereford, Gloucester, and Worcester, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of clergymen, will be held on the 14th of September and three following days. The principal vocalists engaged are Madame Clara Novello, Miss Williams, Mrs. Endersohn, Mr. Lockey, Mr. Hobbs, Mr. Barnby, Mr. H. Phillips, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Herr Formes. Mr. Blagrove is the leader, Mr. Townshend Smith the conductor, Mr. Amott the organist, and Mr. W. Done, the pianist. *The Creation*, *St. Paul*, *The Last Judgment*, and *The Messiah*, are the oratorios selected for performance.

**NORWICH FESTIVAL.**—This musical festival will be one of unusual interest this year. Mr. Benedict will, as heretofore, direct all the musical arrangements. Engagements have been entered into with the following eminent singers:—Mesdames Viardot, Fiorentini, Misses Louisa Pyne, Dolby, and Alleyne; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Lockey, and Weiss, Signor Gardoni, Signor Belletti, and Herr Formes. The programme promises a great amount of novelty. There will be two new oratorios; one by Dr. Bexfield, and one by Mr. Pierson, who formerly held the chair as professor of music at the University of Edinburgh. The evening concert will comprise selections from *Faust*, *Charles the Second*, *Prophète*, *Minnesinger*, the finale of Mendelssohn's unfinished opera, *Lorely*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with Mrs. Fanny Kemble to read the text. The orchestra and chorus will be on the same scale as usual. More than one hundred executants have been selected from London. The soloists will be Sainton, Blagrove, and Bottesini. The dates of the festival are fixed for the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of September.

**SOUTHWARK SINGING ASSOCIATION.**—The members of the elementary and upper classes of this association had their half-yearly musical festival on the 23rd of August, at Sussex Hall. The chorus numbered upwards of two hundred voices. The performance of Mr. R. E. Harris, pianist, greatly assisted the vocal efforts of the class. During the evening, a testimonial, consisting of a beautiful edition of Scott's Commentary on the Bible, was presented by the members of the elementary class to their teacher, Mr. J. E. Minot. The audience (a numerous and respectable one) appeared gratified with the entertainments.

**NORTH DURHAM.**—On Wednesday, the 11th ult., an evening service and performance of sacred music was given at Norham church, to commemorate the restoration of the fine old Saxon building to its original proportions, by adding a north transept, new sittings, &c. Eighteen chorists, from Durham cathedral principally, Morpeth, and Dalmahoy, near Edinburgh, assisted on the occasion. The preces, versicles, and collects, were intoned by the

Hon. and Rev. F. Grey, rector of Morpeth; the lessons were read by the Rev. Dr. Gilly, vicar of Norham and canon of Durham. The Service was Ebdon's in C; the Anthems, "Glory to God," from Haydn's Mass in B♭; "Plead thou my cause," from Mozart's 12th; "Praise the Lord, O my soul," from Mozart's 1st, the treble solo of which (in F) was effectively rendered by Master Peele; and the "Hallelujah" chorus, *Messiah*. The accompaniments on the organ, a wretched instrument, by Messrs. Freemantle and White, were occasionally uncertain, indeed painfully observable in "Plead thou my cause," as well the sudden pause at the end of the "Hallelujah," previous to the Amen, not being attended to; yet upon the whole the performance gave great satisfaction and delight to about fourteen hundred persons, at the sole expense of the Rev. Dr. Gilly, whose object was to diffuse a taste for choral music in Norham and Berwickshire. Refreshments were provided on the lawn at the vicarage, and fireworks, at the ruins of the old Castle, in the evening, terminated the proceedings.

THE TORQUAY CHORAL SOCIETY gave a fête at Watcomb, recently, which created a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm in Torquay.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. J. F. Leeson has been appointed organist to the Blind Asylum, at Old Trafford.

ARDWICK GENTLEMEN'S GLEE CLUB.—We understand this society will resume their concerts for the season in the early part of this month.

ERECTION OF A NEW ORGAN AT ETON COLLEGE.—A new organ (built by Messrs. Gray and Davison) has just been placed against the Southern wall of the College; the case, designed by Mr. Deason, exhibits great taste and originality of effect—the material is of elaborately carved oak; the organ contains three manuals and twenty-nine stops, five copulas. One of the peculiar features of the instrument is, that the front pipes are of burnished tin—a metal very generally used for the purpose on the Continent. We are assured by a correspondent, who has had an opportunity of trying the organ, that it reflects great credit upon its well-known builders.

MADAME CLARA NOVELLO will shortly leave England for Madrid, having made arrangements, after singing at the Festivals, to visit that capital.

ORGAN PERFORMANCE.—On the evening of the 16th, an organ performance was given by Mr. J. T. Cooper, organist of St. Paul's, Islington. Selections were made from the works of Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Bach, Spohr, &c. Mr. Bullen, of Norfolk, is the organ builder.

MRS. WILSON, the widow of the late Mr. John Wilson, the celebrated Scottish vocalist and illustrator of the ballad music of his country, died suddenly in the early part of the month, of apoplexy, induced it is supposed by sudden immersion in a bath. It will be remembered that the death of her husband was of a very sudden and painful nature.

VIENNA.—A body of musicians here have it in contemplation to present an address of thanks to the Earl of Westmoreland for his patronage to the art. For the approaching concert season, the following musical celebrities are announced as intended members of the Royal Academy of Music:—Leopold de Meyer, Dreychock, Dr. Kontski, Teresa Milanolo, Adam, Auber, Berlioz, De Beriot, Fétis, Halevy, Liszt, Lachner, Lindpainter, Marschner, Meyerbeer, Mercadante, Moscheles, Molique, Rossini, Spohr, Schneider, Schumann, and Thalberg.

HAYDN.—The remains of this gifted musician were recently disinterred in the presence of the authorities at Vienna, a report having been circulated that whilst his body was exposed in the chapel of the cemetery, the head was removed from the body and taken away. The result of the investigation is not yet made public.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

J. ALFRED NOVELLO has just imported a limited number of copies of the Second Edition of

**Marx's Theory and Practice of Musical COMPOSITION.** Translated into English from the Third German Edition, and Edited by HERMAN S. SARONI. Price, cloth boards, 15s.—The Second Edition of the English translation of this celebrated work is now ready. Since the publication of the first edition it has been subjected to the most rigid examination by several Professors of Music for the detection of those typographical errors, which are so likely to occur in a work of this character, especially in the Examples in Harmony. It is believed that no work on Harmony ever issued, has been more free from typographical errors than this second edition of the Translation of Marx.

**SIR JOHN HAWKINS' HISTORY OF MUSIC,** with 200 Woodcuts and Musical Illustrations, is being Re-printed by J. A. NOVELLO. For particulars and specimen, see page 374, Vol. IV. of the *Musical Times*.

**DURING THE LAST MONTH,**  
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